

Theodore or Duchesne
Post Office

JOHN JARVIE AND EMILY JANE DUKE SELLERS



John Jarvie Sellers, born June 26, 1878 at the family farm on Center Creek was the first son of Archibald and Elizabeth Sellers. As a boy he worked on the farm and attended school in the winter. When quite young he worked with his father and "Uncle" Jim Lindsay and others in constructing and maintaining the reservoir which supplied the farms on Center Creek with irrigating water.

In those days there was much good grass in the hills. Often in the spring most of the hay would be used up, and after working the horses in the field all day, the animals would be turned loose in the foothills where they would get plenty to eat. The cows, too, grazed in the foothills during the day and then were driven in at night to be milked.

Johnny helped with the milking. His mother took care of the milk. She had two cupboards, one of which held 24 pans of milk and the other 36. She would let the milk set 24 to 36 hours. The cream was then skimmed off and made into butter which she sold for around 20 cents a pound.

Johnny also helped with butchering the beef, calves and hogs. This meat was sold in Park City for approximately five cents a pound for the front quarters and seven cents for the hindquarters.

Johnny, like his younger brothers, looked forward to the times when a crowd would come to the farm. Often his Uncles Will Buys and Edward Buys and their wonderful families would be among the visitors. Johnny would help take up the carpet in the front room in order to have a dance. Uncle Ed would play the fiddle as he frequently did for

dances, and the older ones waltzed and danced the quadrille, with one of the older men "calling." They would sing songs and play games.

John Austin, who was then developing into a sheep magnate, lived in Center Creek. Mr. Austin offered Johnny \$20 a month to herd sheep. This seemed a large amount of money to Johnny and he eagerly took the job, which he held for several years.

He fell in love with Emily Jane Duke and they were married September 14, 1904. After working in various capacities such as foreman in the sugar beet field, owning and managing a grocery store in Heber, and operating a boarding house at a coal mine in Grass Creek, Utah, he decided in 1910 to take up farming on land that had been recently thrown open to homesteading in Northeastern Utah. He located near Myton, Utah. For the next eight years, he and his helpful wife Emily worked long and happy hours in cultivating the land, raising cattle and doing the customary farm work.

In 1918 the Church called John and Emily Sellers on a mission. Their headquarters were in San Francisco, California, where Johnny later became Conference President of the Mission in that area. In 1920 they returned to the farm near Myton and lived there until 1927 when they moved to Heber.

After moving to Heber Johnny became a dealer for Rawleigh Products. Because of his integrity, industry and friendliness, he prospered in this work. He developed into one of the company's star salesmen, and in 1937 won an important prize for salesmanship.

On September 14, 1954, Johnny and Emily were highly honored by being given a party in celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary, attended by more than 350 friends.

Emily Jane was born in Heber City March 11, 1881 to Patriarch Robert S. Duke and Rachel Horrocks Duke. She was the fourth child of a family of seven.

She received her education in Heber and Park City schools. She graduated from the 8th grade in Park City. She and Gus Johnson were the only ones in Summit County who had 100 percent in their graduation examination.

Emily held many responsible positions in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She taught in Primary as the Trail Builder Teacher and in Sunday School. She was at one time the President of the Heber

East Ward Primary and President of the Midview Duchesne County Ward Relief Society.

After a wonderful two year courtship she became the wife of John J. Sellers. They were married September 14, 1904, in the Salt Lake Temple by John R. Winder, one of the counselors to President Joseph F. Smith.

A few years after they were married they pioneered in the Uintah Basin. They enjoyed this pioneer life from 1910 to 1927. Emily was a wonderful helpmate and spent many days plowing with a four horse team. She helped her husband to build their home by carrying mortar and dobies. She and her husband both enjoyed outdoor life so they really looked forward to their annual trip back to Heber City for supplies. This was a hundred mile trip which took three days to Heber and five days to return with a load. During the time they were away from their pioneer home they would visit friends, relatives, attend LDS Conference and the State Fair.

They made their livelihood by milking cows and making butter and cheese. They had a good market at Myton. They also shipped cream from the Uintah Basin to Salt Lake City by parcel post. They could ship 50-pounds parcel post for 55 cents where freight would have cost about \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Emily was the first postmaster in Midview. She fulfilled this duty for six years.

During the mission in California she was a great salesman because during a campaign to sell the Book of Mormon she sold more than any other missionary in the California mission.

This devoted couple never were blessed with children of their own but in 1922 they adopted a little girl named Lola. In a few years her sister Eleanor came and made her home with them until she married Allen Bethers. They learned to love both Lola and Eleanor as their own. They have both been wonderful and a lot of comfort to Emily and Johnny.

